

Widow Kendall House
10 North Ferry Street
Schenectady
Schenectady County
New York

HABS No. NY-3282

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. NY-3282

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WIDOW KENDALL HOUSE

Address: 10 North Ferry Street, Schenectady, Schenectady County, New York.

Present Owner and Occupant: Miss Bernice Hodges

Present Use: Residence.

Brief Statement of Significance: An early, remaining town house.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Original and subsequent owners: Annie Kendall, until 1833. Owned by a Mr. Bradshaw, 1917-42. Purchased by Bernice Hodges in 1942.

B. Date of erection: c. 1790.

C. Notes on alterations and additions: At unknown dates an addition across the rear and a second addition to the south part of the rear were made. Bookcases in the first-floor front room and mantel in second-floor front room were installed in recent years.

D. Sources of information: Historic Buildings in Downtown Schenectady, booklet (Schenectady: Committee on Historic Markers, Schenectady County Historical Society, 1961), p. 16. Interview with Miss Bernice Hodges, 10 North Ferry Street, Schenectady, New York, September 6, 1962.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: An early, remaining example of a town house.

2. Condition of fabric: Unequal settlement of front wall and generally. House is kept in good repair.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Over-all dimensions: About 27' frontage.

2. Foundations: Very low.

3. Wall construction: Brick (American bond) and heavy, timber frame. Clapboards on side walls, 5" exposure.

4. Porches: Entrance frontispiece appears to be 19th century addition. Two Doric wood columns, frieze and cornice, pediment.

5. Chimneys: Brick Chimney on south end, at ridge.

6. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: Entrance has wood casing in masonry reveal, antae with side lights, two-piece entablature with heavy dentils. Four-panel door, not molded.

b. Windows and shutters: Double-hung sash, two over two lights. Board and batten shutters first story, louvered shutters second story; hung on pintles driven into wood frame. Some wood lintels, some flat brick arches. Wood sills.

7. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: Gable (parallel to street). Now covered with painted tin and asbestos composition shingles.

b. Cornice: Wood cornice with narrow frieze across facade.

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: I: Side hall and one room - original portion. Later addition of a room across rear, still later wing to rear. II: Side hall, hall chamber, one main room at front; rooms over addition at rear.

2. Stairways: Straight flight, open string, turned cherry balusters (two per tread) and round handrail. Turned newel. Stair appears original.

3. Flooring: Hewn joists visible in basement, wide sash-sawn pine boards. First floor now covered with modern, narrow flooring. Second floor of front portion retains pine boards, 8" to 17" wide.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plastered, papered. Ceilings have generally been lowered with composition board.

5. Doorways and doors: Four-panel plain doors.

6. Trim: Wood architrave door and window trim throughout.

7. Hardware: Iron thumb latch. Two cast iron butts each door.

8. Heating: Fireplaces in main room, first floor; simple wood mantel with antae, slightly cambered architrave, two-piece entablature. Mantel at second floor above, is replacement.

D. Site: On east side of narrow city street--party walls. Facade at sidewalk line. Very narrow side yard on north, none on south.

Prepared by Harley J. McKee, Architect
National Park Service
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